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Sciences Group Unveils Plan To Revise Curricula

Project 2061 Defines Core 'Literacy' Goals

By Robert Rothman

WASHINGTON—The American Association for the Advancement of Science last week launched a major school-reform initiative that is expected to extend over decades and involve not only a curricular remodeling but changes in teacher training, course materials, testing, and school organization.

The initiative moves the A.A.A.S.'s Project 2061—named for the date of the next appearance of Halley's Comet—from theory into practice. It was described at a press conference here in which leaders in the scientific and education communities unveiled a blueprint for learning developed over three years from the work of several panels of scholars.

The report, "Science for All Americans," represents, it says, a "shared national vision of what Americans want their schools to achieve" in science, mathematics, and technology.

William O. Baker, co-chairman of the 26-member committee that compiled the report, said that the project's scientific-literacy goals were an essential ingredient of any plan for regaining the country's competitive edge in the world market.

"We can't wait any longer for the treatment of deficiencies, which are deadly," said Mr. Baker, former chairman of the board of AT&T Bell Telephone Laboratories Inc.

"It isn't that we don't know what to do," he asserted. "It's absolutely certain we're not yet doing it."

The report's blueprint of essential learning goals—what it calls a "common core of learning"—stresses the connections among scientific disciplines, rather than the boundaries between them.

It encourages schools to emphasize ideas

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'Personalizing' High Schools

N.Y.C. Testing Plan To Carve Out Smaller Units

By William Snider

Within the towering steel and glass walls of New York City's Martin Luther King Jr. High School, administrators have embarked on an experiment some experts believe could provide a model for pumping new life into ailing urban schools: They are attempting to create a smaller, more personal environment for students and teachers.

The only physical signs of the experiment are offices that house the staffs of nine "institutes" to which all 9th and 10th graders, and some upperclassmen, belong. These include an institute for law and justice, a business-careers institute, and others organized along programmatic themes.

A core group of teachers, administrators, and guidance personnel is assigned to each institute to promote collaboration among staff members and create the con-

ditions under which they can develop a closer rapport with their students.

"I would like to see the whole school—all 3,300 kids and all 300 staff members—involved in a way that makes them feel they have a positive, vested interest in a group that also cares about them," said Caesar Previdi, the school's principal, now in his third year.

The M.L.K. project is part of a new wave of experimentation pegged to an old idea—that a smaller, more intimate school setting provides a social environment more conducive to learning.

Concern over excessively high dropout rates, particularly in urban systems, has led many education reformers to conclude that large-scale high schools and middle schools contribute to the problem by promoting a sense of alienation and anonymity among students.

Several of the school-restructuring

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Civil-Rights Unit Shirks Its Task, 2 Reports Charge

Seen 'Relentlessly' Undermining the Law

By William Snider

WASHINGTON—The agency responsible for enforcing federal civil-rights laws in education has failed to issue consistent enforcement guidelines, discouraged prosecution of certain types of bias complaints, negotiated insufficient remedies, and declined to monitor them for compliance, according to two new highly critical reports.

Both reports provide new evidence buttressing criticisms that have frequently been leveled at the Education Department's office for civil rights in hearings and legal actions during the past eight years.

"Notwithstanding intense judicial and Congressional scrutiny since 1981, O.E.D.'s leadership has relentlessly undermined the civil-rights statutes entrusted to it," the majority staff of the House Education and Labor Committee concluded in one of the reports.

The report, which was not endorsed by the full committee, is the first in recent years to assess O.E.D.'s performance partly on the basis of interviews with the officials who carry out the agency's policies from 10 regional offices. Committee staff members visited 6 of the 10 regional offices and analyzed data and information provided by the O.E.D. headquarters in Washington.

The interviews revealed, the report said, that there was a "clear perception among the regional office staff that certain issues were 'off limits' and could not be investigated... unless there were 'horror stories'—facts of such egregiousness that a finding other than discrimination was not possible."

The second report is a chapter in a forthcoming study of civil-rights enforcement during the Reagan years that also examines efforts to end discrimination in areas such as higher education, housing, and employment.

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Anti-Drug Efforts Need Resources, Those in the Trenches Advise 'Czar'

By Ellen Flax

When William J. Bennett goes before the Senate this week to be confirmed as the first "drug czar," school officials and drug-education experts will be among those listening most carefully to his testimony.

Few doubt the former U.S. Secretary of Education's intention to make good on President Bush's mandate to make education a central part of the federal fight against illegal drugs. But many question his ability—or desire—to allocate the funds that many see as necessary to carry out this mission.

To make schools an essential part of the anti-drug campaign, they say, Mr. Bennett will have to match his rhetoric with funds

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Students and teachers mark the closing of a drug-infested Washington building.

Escalating 'Bricks-and-Mortar' Cost: The Problem Nobody Wants

By Nancy Mathis

The nation's school districts, faced with decaying buildings and annual construction outlays nearing \$7 billion, may need help from policymakers, especially those in state governments, in underwriting the massive costs of building and renovating, experts said last week.

The costly brick-and-mortar problem has been too long ignored by legislatures, dismissed by voters, and delayed by school officials, concede state leaders and educators.

"The magnitude of the problem is enormous and may well be the educational issue of the 1990's," three school-finance experts conclude in the latest edition of the *Journal of Education Finance*.

Buildings are often unsafe, overcrowded,

inaccessible to special populations, and in need of asbestos abatement, new roofs, upgraded electrical systems, and other physical improvements, the researchers write.

And they point to additional pressure on school officials for more space to accommodate state mandates for smaller classes, new preschool programs, instructional programs for at-risk students, improvements in technology, and new developments in science laboratories.

"A sizable proportion of our nation's urban, suburban, and rural school buildings are in need of repair, modernization, or replacement," argue David C. Thompson, assistant professor of educational administration at Kansas State University; David S. Honeyman, assistant professor of educa-

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Overcrowding at high school in Florida, where construction needs are mounting.

Also in the news

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A study of black and Hispanic elementary pupils shows no lack of confidence or motivation, despite poorer achievement.
- 5 Principals' Poll Data**
Nearly a third of all elementary-school principals will retire in three years, but few minorities may take their slots.
- 14 Official Indifference?**
A Senate panel probes the oversight loopholes that have allowed sexual abuse in Indian schools to go unchecked.

IN SUMMARY

A Warning From the Regents

The education governing board for New York State has put New York City school officials on notice that they may face dismissal if they continue to lag in reforming their troubled system. **Page 4.**

A Move to 'Real Reform'

The Columbus, Ohio, school district, looking to achieve what its superintendent calls "real reform," not "smoke and mirrors," has adopted an ambitious new restructuring plan. **Page 6.**

'Trust Fund' Under Fire

Gov. Richard F. Celeste's \$1.8-billion plan for an Ohio school "trust fund" has drawn a tepid response from his fellow Democrats—and been declared "dead on arrival" by Republicans. **Page 8.**

Utilizing a Jackpot

Florida's ongoing dispute over how to use lottery profits seems likely to continue, following the governor's release of a budget that would dedicate the funds strictly to enhancing schools. **Page 9.**

Nepotism Data Lacking

A new report on "kinship" hiring by Kentucky school districts concludes that the "stench of nepotism" many in the state have perceived is largely unsupported by actual data. **Page 10.**

A Child-Abuse Ruling

The U.S. Supreme Court, ruling in a Wisconsin child-abuse case, has held that the 14th Amendment does not create a government guarantee of safety from such harm. **Page 14.**

Budget Questions Continue

Members of two key budget panels last week grilled Secretary of Education Lauro F. Cavazos about the President's spending plan—labeled a "deception" by one lawmaker. **Page 14.**

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ACROSS THE NATION

NATIONAL

Group Warns of Toxic Dioxin In School Milk Cartons

An environmental organization has called on the U.S. Department of Agriculture to ensure that the milk cartons used in its school-nutrition programs do not contain dioxin, a highly toxic chemical.

Action is urgently needed, argues Greenpeace, an international advocacy group, because a study by the Canadian government last year found that dioxin migrates from paper cartons into milk. Dioxin has been linked with reproductive and immunological disorders.

Dioxin is a byproduct of a chlorine bleaching process used to whiten paper products, including milk cartons. Milk stored in cartons made from plastic, glass, and unbleached paper products is much less likely to contain dioxin, according to the Canadian study.

A spokesman for the U.S.D.A. said that

no changes will be made until the agency receives more information about the matter from the Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Increasing percentages of children and the elderly are placing more demands on the nation's 13 Western states, a new report maintains.

The demographic expansion of the two age groups that most need and use public services has imposed a greater burden on taxpayers in the West than in any other region, argues the report by Westrends, a branch of the Council of State Governments.

The Pacific and Rocky Mountain states have the highest percentage of children under age 5 in the nation and three times the national rate of elderly people.

Every Western state but Oregon has a birth rate higher than the national average, said Cathy Callaway, a spokesman for the organization.

Copies of the report, "The Dynamic West:

A Region in Transition," are available for \$30 each from the Council of State Governments, Iron Works Pike, P.O. Box 11910, Lexington, Ky. 40578-9989.

"Running Start," a program designed to develop reading skills among young children, has been established with a \$2.1-million grant from the Chrysler Corporation Fund.

In its largest commitment ever to a single project—and its first for early-childhood education—the automobile manufacturer's philanthropic arm has formed a partnership with Reading is Fundamental Inc., the nation's largest nonprofit reading organization.

The new initiative will distribute money over the next three years to enhance 1st-grade reading programs at selected schools in cities where Chrysler has facilities.

"We're still in the process of making that selection," said Vicki Heland, RIF's manager of educational services. "We'll be looking for geographic variety in both large and small cities."

DISTRICTS

Boston Panel To Consider Choice Plan, Wilson's Contract

The Boston school committee was expected to vote this week on two controversial and closely linked issues: renewal of Superintendent Laval S. Wilson's contract and a new student-assignment plan.

The fate of the district's first black superintendent has become increasingly uncertain in recent months, according to district sources and press accounts, as city officials and community leaders have debated proposals for ending 15 years of mandatory student busing.

The plan to be considered by the panel is a combination of proposals submitted by Mr. Wilson and consultants hired by Mayor Raymond L. Flynn. It would allow all parents to choose their children's schools, subject to limits set by the need to maintain racial balance.

Last month, the committee adjourned a meeting on Mr. Wilson's contract after it became apparent that a majority of the 13-member committee opposed renewal, according to *The Boston Globe*.

The superintendent's support eroded after he proposed closing and consolidating some schools as part of the controlled-choice plan, according to school officials and other observers. They also pointed to conflicts between Mr. Wilson's efforts to centralize power and a growing local movement to give teachers and parents more control over their schools.

Some members of the Milwaukee school board are pushing for the elimination of a decade-old requirement that district employees live in the city.

According to a spokesman for the board, some members have expressed concern that the rule has slowed the pace of racial integration in the suburbs. Local union officials have argued that employees should be free to live where they chose.

One sign of sentiment on the board came last month, when the finance and facilities committee rejected a request by Superintendent Robert S. Peterkin for \$40,000 for a private detective hired to investigate violators of the residency rule.

The district had been advised by the city's attorney to hire the detective to col-

lect "evidence" needed to settle residency disputes, according to a spokesman.

The investigator was used only when district officials had reasonable cause to believe employees were living outside the city, the spokesman added.

The funds were denied because board officials want to "reexamine the residency rules," the spokesman said. If the rules are changed, the detective would not be needed.

Allegations of financial irregularities have led to the resignation of the athletic director of the St. Paul school system.

Melvin Branch resigned after agreeing to repay the district \$4,750 that an audit showed was missing from a fund under his control.

The internal audit also questioned whether an additional \$30,000 had been spent or accounted for properly. It cited such instances as the purchase of equipment without bids, \$20,000 in purchases from a sporting-goods company said to be partly owned by a relative of Mr. Branch, and personal loans made from

athletic funds.

The state auditor's office has begun its own audit of the athletic department's funds, and the Ramsey County attorney's office has expressed interest in the case.

District officials said that they found no evidence that Mr. Branch used any athletic funds for personal gain.

Sue Collins, a Waco, Tex., high-school teacher who contended she had been pressured to change an athlete's grade, has settled her lawsuit against the district for \$50,000 plus \$120,000 in legal fees.

Last year, a jury awarded Ms. Collins \$77,000. But the decision was set aside by the judge in the case, who admitted that the time limits he had placed on completion of the trial were unfair.

Ms. Collins agreed to resign from her position, effective June 1, and to drop a grievance against the principal of the high school, according to Brad Ritter, a spokesman for the Texas State Teachers Association.



Valerie Lane and other Cleveland parents are getting official encouragement to help their children in school. Teachers have prepared a brochure on home learning for them, and the school board plans to enlist them in "partnership" agreements.

The Plain Dealer, Cleveland, Ohio

UPDATE

■ Los Angeles teachers began turning in students' report cards to the district last week, in order to avoid losing their latest paychecks.

Many members of United Teachers of Los Angeles had withheld official midyear grades from the district to protest stalled contract negotiations. But union officials last week advised teachers to turn in their report cards, after a county judge declined to issue a temporary restraining order barring the district from retaliating by withholding salaries. (See *Education Week*, Feb. 15, 1989.)

Superior Court Judge Dzintra Janavs said at a Feb. 17 hearing that she did not have jurisdiction over the dispute, which she maintained falls under the domain of the state's public-employee-relations board.

Don Schrack, a spokesman for the union, said the U.T.L.A. will appeal the judge's ruling, using one teacher as a test case.

Union members are scheduled to vote March 7 on whether they will accept the district's latest contract offer or authorize a strike for later in the semester.

■ The Minneapolis school board is expected to vote this month on a proposal for an experimental new middle school that would combine academic studies with real-life experiences by holding classes in "learning centers" located throughout the community.

Students at the proposed Chiron School would attend classes on a year-round basis, spending nine weeks at a time at sites in museums, zoos, government offices, and other locations. They would engage in learning projects related to the site where

their classes are being held.

The proposal is the result of an unusual competition sponsored last year by a group of business leaders, educators, and parents. The group promised to pay up to \$6,000 for the best proposal for a school that put education-reform ideas into practice. (See *Education Week*, June 8, 1988.)

The winning concept was submitted by a local principal and a teacher. It also would abolish grade-level designations and place pupils in multi-age groups where individual students could progress at their own pace.

If the board approves of the idea, officials said the new institution could open as early as next fall, with 300 to 600 students in grades 5 through 8.

■ Gerard T. Indelicato, the former education aide to Gov. Michael S. Dukakis of Massachusetts, has been sentenced to 7 to 10 years in state prison after pleading guilty to charges that he steered a state education department contract to an associate by forging documents.

Mr. Indelicato also pleaded guilty to three more counts of forgery, larceny, and conflict of interest related to his tenure as president of Bridgewater State College. For those charges, he was sentenced to 3 to 5 years in prison, to run concurrent with the 7-to-10-year sentence.

Mr. Indelicato is currently serving a 30-month sentence in federal prison in connection with a scheme to defraud the state of \$80,000 in adult-education funds. The new sentence will begin after the conclusion of the federal term. (See *Education Week*, May 4, 1988.)

■ For the second time in two years, Attorney General Robert Butterworth of Florida has accused dairy processors

DIMENSIONS

School-Based Clinics

Nearly half of the funding for school-based health clinics comes from private sources, according to a survey by the support center for school-based clinics of the Center for Population Options.

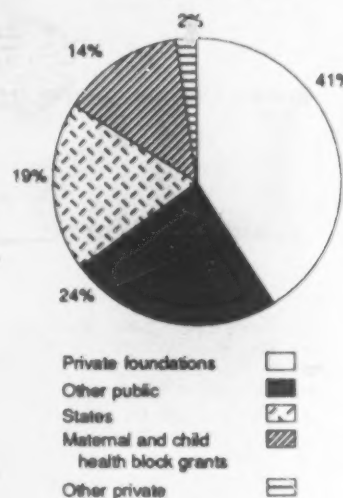
Private foundations represent the largest single source of money for the clinics, which provide a range of health-related services, frequently to students who have no other primary source of care.

Each clinic costs an average of \$165,000 a year, the survey of 45 programs operating 76 clinics indicates.

The number of school-based clinics has risen rapidly in recent years, from 12 in 1980 to 62 in 1986 and 150 in 1988, the center reports.

Copies of "School-Based Clinics—1988 Update" are available for \$3.00 each from the Center for Population Options, 1012 14th St., N.W., Suite 1200, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Funding Sources



and distributors of illegally fixing the price of milk sold to public schools.

Acting on behalf of 20 school districts, the attorney general charged the dairy firms with conspiring to divide school contracts among themselves, thereby eliminating competitive bidding and setting artificially high prices.

The attorney general is seeking triple damages.

Charged as defendants were Barber

Dairies Inc., of Birmingham, Ala.; Dairy-Fresh Corp., of Greensboro, Ala.; Kinnett Dairies Inc., of Columbus, Ga.; and Bassett Dairy Products Inc., of Live Oak, Fla.

Another four companies and 34 individuals were named as unindicted co-conspirators.

In February 1988, eight milk processors and four distributors agreed to settle a similar lawsuit for \$32.2 million. (See *Education Week*, Feb. 24, 1988.)

RESEARCH AND REPORTS

Census Report Finds Rapid Growth In Single-Parent Families

The proportion of children who live with only one parent has doubled since 1970, according to a new report by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

About 12 percent of all children in 1970 were in single-parent families, the report indicates; by 1988, 24 percent were in such families.

The bureau estimates that 15.3 million

children under 18 lived in single-parent homes last year.

Such living arrangements were most common among black children, 54 percent of whom lived with just one parent. In comparison, 30 percent of Hispanic children and 18.9 percent of white children lived in single-parent households.

Copies of the report, "Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1988," Series P-20, No. 432, are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The price of the report has not yet been set.

PEOPLE

■ The teaching credentials of Peggy Ann Buckley, a former defendant in a highly publicized child-molestation case in Manhattan Beach, Calif., were reinstated last month.

Ms. Buckley has begun working as a special-education teacher at the Trident Center of the Anaheim Union High School District.

She helps students between the ages of 16 and 19 who have learning and communication disorders, according to Cynthia

Grennan, the superintendent of the district.

In 1984, Ms. Buckley was one of seven employees of the Virginia McMartin Preschool to be charged with 135 counts of sexual abuse and conspiracy.

The charges against Ms. Buckley and four other teachers were dropped in 1986, after District Attorney Ira Reiner of Los Angeles concluded that there was insufficient evidence to convict them.

Ms. Buckley's brother, Raymond Buckley, and her mother, Peggy McMartin Buckley, are still being tried on charges of molestation and conspiracy.

Fledgling Fiddlers

The notes sometimes screech and scratch enough to set teeth on edge.

Even so, when the 2nd graders at Bryden Elementary School in Beachwood, Ohio, draw bows across their violins and pluck at the strings, the tune of "Hot Cross Buns" emerges in a more-or-less identifiable form.

The budding violinists are participating in "Introduction to Musicianship With the Violin as a Medium," a pilot program designed to acquaint students with the instrument and to inspire their interest in music.

"The goal is not to develop polished virtuosos," says Molly Weaver, a music instructor who helped design the program. Instead, says Lee McMurrin, the district's superintendent, the goal is to cultivate "musicianship on a bonafide instrument."

During a total of six 30-minute classes, students work on such basic violin skills as the correct positioning of the violin

and bow, posture, pitch identification, and good tone production.

Each student receives a violin for the duration of the program. After two weeks of hard work, they are permitted to take their instruments home to show off their new talents to their families.

At the beginning, the children practice technique and form using a plastic straw—an appurtenance that is considerably less unwieldy than a bow in the hands of a 7- or 8-year old.

Quickly enough, though, the potential music makers have switched to bows and begun tackling "Mary Had a Little Lamb," "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star," and other elementary-school favorites.

"They don't sound like the Cleveland Orchestra," Ms. Weaver readily concedes. But nevertheless, she says, the songs are "recognizable and can even sound quite good."

—J.W.

MILESTONES

■ Georgiana Hardy, who served on the Los Angeles school board longer than any other member in the system's history, is dead at 78.

She was first elected to the board in 1955, at a time when it was controlled by a con-

servative majority. The influence of Ms. Hardy, a lifelong liberal, gradually led to more "progressive thinking" among board members, according to a spokesman for the district.

Ms. Hardy served five consecutive terms and was president of the board three times before deciding not to seek reelection in 1975.

Correction

The position of the Council of Chief State School Officers on the split of federal vocational-education funds between program improvement and special populations was incorrectly reported in the Feb. 15 issue.

While the C.C.S.S.O. had considered advocating that program improvement receive a greater share of federal funds, its final position was that the split between the two categories should remain the same but that a third funding category should be added for improvement of pro-

grams that serve highly concentrated special populations.

Clarification

An article in the Feb. 15 issue, "Questions Raised on Efficacy of Stiffer Math, Science Graduation Requisites," did not include the title of a study conducted by the Center for Policy Research in Education. The title of the report by William H. Clune et al. is "The Implementation and Effects of High School Graduation Requirements: First Steps Toward Curricular Reform."

Bricks and Mortar: Vast Ills but Few Remedies

Continued from Page 1

tional administration at Lehigh University; and Craig R. Wood, associate professor of educational administration at Purdue University.

But the price of the undertaking may overwhelm local districts' ability to pay, Mr. Thompson said.

For years, school facilities have been neglected as districts focused on instructional priorities, he said.

Still, the amount districts have spent in recent years, and are expected to spend in the years ahead, is staggering.

The magazine *American School & University* has reported that school-district spending on construction projects in 1987 totaled a record \$6.6 billion nationally, up \$516 million from the previous year.

Calling it a "boom market" not seen since the 1970's, the magazine reported that the spending total for 1988 through 1990, according to districts' projections, would be \$21.9 billion. The actual costs, it said, probably would be higher.

As massive as those figures are, however, they still do not include needs that districts are unable even to plan on meeting, the experts suggested.

A new national survey of rural and small schools enrolling fewer than 800 students revealed, for example, that each building had \$300,000 in deferred-maintenance needs alone, said Mr. Thompson.

"We're finding an awfully lot of needs that local districts do not have the ability to [meet]," he said.

Voter Resistance

Traditionally the domain of local districts, capital construction projects historically have been underwritten by local bond issues approved by voters.

But voters frustrated by local taxation levels have been downing bond issues with increasing frequency in recent years—a pattern that worries many school officials. (See *Education Week*, Oct. 19, 1988.)

In addition, the limits generally placed on districts' bond indebtedness mean they may not be able to fund all needed capital projects in any event. And many districts simply lack the tax base to generate revenue for construction or repairs.

In Wisconsin, the issue has become a politically hot topic after a series of newspaper articles last year resulted in state safety inspections of school buildings and calls by State Superintendent Herbert Grover for increased state aid to fund repairs.

"Candidly, we can't get the referendums passed," said Mr. Grover. "We've only built five new buildings in the past five years. We have 2,002 buildings, so at that rate the new buildings will have to last 400 years."

Proposing to Share Costs

Mr. Grover has proposed that the state pay for 46 percent of districts' maintenance and construction budgets through the school-aid formula. That would amount to an additional \$43 million from the state annually.

Gov. Tommy Thompson has proposed a \$27-million appropriation, which the state superintendent claims is inadequate.

Mr. Grover views the problem as one of priorities and a moral obligation to children.

"We've spent more money on prisons in the past five years than we have on elementary and secondary education facilities, and we only

Construction Expenditures By School Districts

(in thousands)

Completed in 1987:	
New	\$2,627,432
Additions	2,093,929
Modernizations	1,914,887
Total	6,636,248
Projected for completion, 1988-90:	
New	\$10,270,000
Additions	7,316,000
Modernizations	4,345,000
Total	21,931,000

SOURCE: American School & University, May 1988

house 5,500 prisoners," he complained. "Our prisons are in better shape than our elementary and secondary schools."

"It's a gut issue," he added. "We put our children in decrepit, dank, stark buildings. Our highways, zoos, and prisons are in the greatest of shape."

Mr. Grover contended that school buildings "should be bright and warm and nurturing. They ought to be the happiest and most embracing environment children can come to."

'Educational Slums'

In recent months, other state officials also have attempted to tackle the construction problem.

• In West Virginia, Gov. Gaston Caperton recently announced a \$500-million plan to refinance state bonds to fund repairs and new buildings.

Steve Haid, Mr. Caperton's education aide, said the Governor was struck by the condition of buildings "that are artifacts of the 19th century, nothing more than educational slums."

• In Texas, Comptroller Bob Bullock in January announced a plan to use state-backed bonds to finance \$750 million in school construction projects.

Mary Jane Wardlow, Mr. Bullock's spokesman, said the 1,062 Texas school districts, which rely solely on local revenue for such projects, have the highest bonded indebtedness in the nation—\$6.5 billion. She said districts' payments on principal and interest amount to \$900 million a year.

Officials estimate that Texas districts will need to spend another \$5 billion by the mid-1990's to keep pace with enrollment growth, Ms. Wardlow said.

In both the West Virginia and Texas plans, school districts would save money because state-backed bonds would have lower interest rates, but both states would require districts to repay the debts.

• In Oklahoma, the House education committee also has proposed that the state assist school districts with construction needs.

• In Kansas, the school boards' association recently adopted a measure asking the state to provide assistance to schools.

• North Carolina's legislature has adopted a measure earmarking tax revenue to aid districts with construction and repairs.

• And the New York legislature has created a special bonding authority to assist New York City public schools. The estimated price tag for construction and renovation in the nation's largest district is \$15 billion by the year 2000.

Fewer Than Half of States Help

All told, 21 states offer some form of capital construction aid to local districts, according to Richard Salmon, associate professor of education at Virginia Tech University, who

has conducted a study of state school-aid formulas.

Only three states—Alaska, California, and Hawaii—are considered to fully fund construction projects, said Mr. Salmon; seven others have loan programs for districts; and 11 have set up independent bonding authorities.

"It's an overlooked area," the researcher said. "Most states don't do a whole lot for school construction."

But he noted that "there's a recognition that states haven't faced up to that responsibility very well and more and more are getting into it."

That interest has been spurred by recent court decisions in school-finance and desegregation cases, according to Mr. Salmon.

In their legal arguments over the equity of state funding formulas, some property-poor districts have contended that wealthy districts can afford new, safe buildings while poor districts cannot. And in the Kansas City desegregation case, the state of Missouri has been ordered to fund a substantial proportion of the district's some \$100 million in capital construction needs.

In his current studies of the effects of local fiscal restraints on construction costs, Mr. Thompson of Kansas State said he was "discovering that facilities are increasingly becoming an issue mentioned in court suits." In addition to the Kansas City case, he noted, the issue has been raised in school-finance lawsuits in New Jersey, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia.

Late last week, Saul Cooperman, New Jersey's state school chief, issued an administrative ruling overturning a law judge's finding that the state funding system was inequitable. But Mr. Cooperman agreed with the judge's finding that a statewide initiative was needed to help districts rebuild their facilities.

Citing previous litigation and discussions he has had recently with school officials in several states, Mr. Thompson predicted that funding for construction costs would play a more prominent role in future school-finance suits.

'Enormous' Needs

Meanwhile, in the vast majority of school districts the search is already on for alternative methods of financing construction projects.

Several districts have used lease-purchase arrangements, under which private investors construct the building, provide the equipment, and lease it back to the district under a long-term contract.

By not having to issue bonds, districts avoid the problem of seeking voter approval for new buildings, eliminate costly debt service, and are able to make the lease payments directly from their general funds.

The practice is used mainly by municipalities, but a growing number of districts, especially in California, are also using the method. North Carolina lawmakers also have given their school districts the authority to enter into such agreements.

Another idea, recommended by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, would be federally backed low-interest loans to districts. The foundation, in its report last year on urban schools, suggested a "National Urban Schools Facilities Program" that would offer federal help to replace or repair urban school buildings.

And in Florida, Commissioner of Education Betty Castor has appointed a task force to find alternative revenue sources for school construction because a utility tax earmarked for that purpose can no longer keep pace with the state's enrollment growth of 60,000 students a year.

Spokesman David Voss said officials have predicted that Florida's school-construction needs will outpace revenue by \$3.5 billion in the next five years.

"We are facing a situation here where we are shifting a greater burden to local bond issues," said Mr. Voss. "The need here is just enormous."

Without assistance from the state, many school districts may go without the renovations and new equipment needed to make students competitive in a world economy, said Ms. Wardlow in Texas. Some 730 of the state's 1,062 districts are considered property-poor, and many, because they lack the financing, have been unable to meet state mandates to shrink class sizes.

"Mr. Bullock just thinks we're not going to have the background to handle the world competition unless we address this issue," Ms. Wardlow said. "He feels this is as much an economic issue as an educational issue."

For its part, the *Journal of Education Finance* is devoting two of its quarterly issues this year to the school-facilities problem. While they are not promoting a particular solution, the researchers said, they hope decisionmakers at the federal, state, and local levels will begin to "comprehend the magnitude of the problem and begin to address methods which can be utilized to correct these needs."

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Teaching the way THEY Learn,
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EDUCATION WEEK

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Bush Called On To Free Funding For Experiments

Rule Waivers Said Way To Spur School Reform

By Lynn Olson

President Bush and the Congress should free selected school districts from rules governing federal aid for disadvantaged youngsters so they can use the funds in innovative ways, a national policy-analysis group proposes in a new blueprint for advancing school reform.

In exchange, the districts would be expected to set and meet performance standards for poor and minority students that far exceed current expectations.

The National Center on Education and the Economy, which developed the plan, compares the wave of innovation that could result from such an initiative to the sweeping experimentation in welfare reform that states engaged in prior to the passage of new federal welfare legislation last year.

The lessons learned from those experiments formed the basis for the current federal welfare policy, the center suggests, saying, "We believe something similar is called for in this case."

The proposal is contained in a report by the center on the federal role in education. It is the first policy document to be generated by the new organization since it was formed a year ago by Marc S. Tucker, former director of the Carnegie Forum on Education and the Economy.

The report was scheduled to be released this week by the center's 25-member board of directors, which includes John Sculley, president and chief executive officer of Apple Computer Inc.; former Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. of North Carolina; Hillary R. Clinton, wife of Gov. Bill Clinton of Arkansas; and David Rockefeller Jr., vice chairman of Rockefeller Family & Associates Inc.

According to the board's report, "To Secure Our Future: The Federal Role in Education," the challenge facing the United States "is to

Continued on Page 24

In San Diego, Managers Forging 'Service' Role

They're 'Needed in a Different Way'

By Lynn Olson

SAN DIEGO—From the outside, this school district's boxy pale-orange headquarters, sitting squatly in the California sunshine, looks like the very embodiment of the old factory model of schooling.

But inside the administrative offices for the San Diego Unified School District word has gone out that the prior rules for working with schools no longer apply.

Approximately 35 schools in this 117,000-student district are in the process of "restructuring" their programs: making any changes deemed necessary to improve student learning.

And the central-office staff members who oversee those schools—and all 118 others in the district—have been warned that they, too, are expected to change.

Instead of serving as the monitors and enforcers of district policy, these middle managers are to become the "enablers" and "facilitators" of reform.

All parts of the organization need to devise new ways of doing business, explains Ruben A. Carriedo, assistant superintendent for planning, research, and evaluation. "We can't just expect it from our schools."

Eventually, district leaders hope to provide all schools here



Group counseling at San Diego's Wilson Middle School.

with greater flexibility and autonomy.

San Diego's effort to rethink the operation not just of individual schools but of the entire school-district bureaucracy points to a central dilemma in the restructuring movement.

Continued on Page 8

Needs of the Emotionally Disturbed Emerging in Debate on Federal Law

By Debra Viadero

When Kristin Huff first started having problems with her schoolwork at the age of 6, teachers at her Wichita, Kan., elementary school labeled her "learning disabled" and placed her in a special-education program.

At age 12, when the emotionally troubled youngster repeatedly tried to kill herself, the school's response was no different. Kristin continued to receive special-education services for her learning disability and little else.

When, at 16, a struggle with anorexia nervosa caused Kristin's weight to drop to 76 pounds, her educational status again remained unchanged.

"She was never identified as behavior-disordered," recalled her mother, Barbara

Huff. "She was never offered psychological services, and, as parents, we didn't know where to turn. It was just a nightmare."

The Huffs' nightmare is one shared by many parents of seriously emotionally disturbed children, experts in special education and the mental-health fields maintain.

Called by some the "most neglected" of all special-education populations, these children, like Kristin, have long been either undiagnosed, shunted off to residential hospitals far from their homes, expelled from school, or simply lost in the juvenile-justice system.

Now, however, a coalition of parents, educators, and mental-health professionals is working to end such nightmares. And, when federal lawmakers sit down this month to begin the process of reauthorizing

Continued on Page 23

Sparks Fly Over Boston Decision To Cease Busing

By William Snider

The Boston school committee last week approved a radical plan to revamp the district's governance structure and student-assignment process, an action that has split both the committee and portions of the community along racial lines.

Black committee members declined to support the plan, signaling an apparent end to what had been a low-key effort to terminate nearly 15 years of court-ordered busing.

In the weeks before the vote, the plan had become enmeshed in the racial politics that have a long history in Boston. And it now threatens to take the participants back into the federal courtroom they were hoping to avoid.

The only points of agreement that appear to remain between the two sides are that many of Boston's public schools are badly in need of educational and capital improve-

Continued on Page 25

Views on 'Choice'

In a new survey, 51% of school-board presidents opposed parental choice. Story on page 5.

Do you think that parents in your community should or should not have the right to choose which local public schools their children should attend?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Board presidents	36%	51%	13%
Superintendents	31	68	1
Principals	37	60	2
Public-school parents	76	21	3
Nonpublic-school parents	81	15	4
No children in school	68	20	12

SOURCE: The National Center for Education Information

'Electronic Mailboxes': Novel Phone Links Closing Gap Between Parents and Schools

By Peter West

When a measles epidemic threatened the Blue Valley Middle School in Stanley, Kan., this year, Principal Richard M. Seipel got the word out to nearly 600 students' parents simply by pushing a few buttons on his telephone.

He was able to notify "95 percent" of them within minutes, he said, by broadcasting a recorded message to their "electronic mailboxes" over the district's two-way voice-messaging system.

"The only delay came when the nurse and I met to write up the announcement," he said.

The Blue Valley school district, located in

an affluent and rapidly growing suburb of Kansas City, is one of the first in the nation to experiment with voice-messaging as a way to improve the communications flow between schools and parents.

But indications are growing that it may soon be joined by many others, as an interactive technology being used extensively by business concerns for internal communications opens up for wider applications.

A recent federal-court ruling has permitted regional telephone companies to offer such services for the first time on a residential basis. And that has prompted researchers and industry leaders to probe the technology's usefulness to educators.

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Also in the news

5 A Chicago 'Heroine'

A school-board auditor's two years of undercover work for the F.B.I. broke open a bus-contracting bribery scheme.

10 New Finance Suit in N.J.

Saying the constitutionality of the aid formula rests on full funding, school boards try to force greater expenditures.

IN SUMMARY

Doubts on Choice

A slim majority of local school-board presidents oppose parental-choice measures; more support greater on-site autonomy for schools, according to a new national survey. **Page 5.**

Educational 'Junk Food'?

A communications firm's plans to beam television news programs and commercials into high-school classrooms drew sharp criticism last week from school officials. **Page 5.**

Bounty Hunting for Teachers

The Dallas school system has promised to pay two personnel-search firms a \$1,450 bonus for each black or Hispanic teacher they find who stays on the job for more than 90 days. **Page 6.**

Global Education Stressed

Schools must prepare students "to do business anywhere on earth" by expanding the teaching of foreign languages, history, geography, and culture, a new governors' report concludes. **Page 11.**

Rethinking Q.B.E.

Georgia is reexamining its 1985 school-reform law, as educators cope with its myriad accountability requirements and legislators seek ways to pay for more of its provisions. **Page 11.**

Bush Budget Shifts

Bush Administration aides have urged use of former President Reagan's 1990 spending plans in budget talks, but backed away from Mr. Reagan's call for school-lunch cuts. **Pages 15, 20.**

Drugs, Schools, and Bennett

At hearings last week on his nomination as anti-drug "czar," William J. Bennett emphasized efforts against student drug use, which a new survey shows is declining. **Page 17.**

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ACROSS THE NATION

NATIONAL

Children's Health Has Deteriorated In Past Decade, Study Indicates

After improving steadily for half a century, the health of American children as measured by key indicators began to deteriorate during the past decade, according to a report released last week.

Compiled by the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions Inc., the report cites 13 "health indicators" that it says suggest rising children's health problems. It documents, for instance, declining rates of immunizations among preschoolers and the increasing incidence of mumps, measles, pertussis, and other diseases that can be prevented by vaccines.

Some of the report's other measures of the worsening health of young people include: a doubling of the suicide rate for 15- to 19-year-olds over the last two decades, a doubling in the number of cases of pediatric AIDS over the past year, a 55 percent increase in the number of reported incidents of child abuse and neglect from 1981 to 1985, and increased obesity among school-age children.

Copies of "Profile of Child Health in the United States," are available for \$20 each from N.A.C.H.R.I., 401 Wythe Street, Alexandria, Va. 22314.

Preschool-age children are being exposed to potentially toxic pesticides at levels that far exceed federal standards, a new study by the Natural Resources Defense Council concludes.

The study argues that children are unduly

exposed to cancer risks because the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's health standards for pesticides in foods are based upon adults' eating patterns. The standards do not reflect young children's heavy consumption of apple juice and other fruits and vegetables, the environmental group maintains.

As many as 6,200 current preschoolers may get cancer because of their exposure to pesticides on produce, the study predicts. The group has filed a lawsuit against the E.P.A., claiming that the agency has failed to counter known risks of pesticides in children's foods.

While foods that contain pesticides are "generally safe," the E.P.A. responded in a statement, "theoretical arguments suggest the young may be more susceptible" to pesticide-residue toxicity.

STATES

Michigan Judge Strikes Down State's Home-Schooling Rules

Michigan education officials say they expect to appeal a state judge's decision stripping them of authority to regulate home schools.

Judge Thomas L. Brown ruled last month that the education department's regulations on home schooling were vague and arbitrary. He directed the department to draw up new regulations, which he said would be subject to approval by the court.

The state regulations were challenged by

a parent and the Clonlara School of Ann Arbor, which provides assistance to some 600 parents who teach their children at home.

They accused the state of harassing home schools by imposing standards that they said were more strict than those applied to other nonpublic schools—for example, by requiring them to provide 180 days of instruction each year by a state-certified teacher.

The state probably will appeal the ruling, according to Superintendent of Public Instruction Donald Bemis, because the court said it would have to approve the new regulations. That requirement violates the separation of powers embodied in state law, he said.

A Florida task force has completed its report on school safety without an agreement on what to do to limit the availability of guns to students.

But the panel, appointed last fall by Betty Castor, the state superintendent, plans to continue studying the issue.

In its report, released last month, the task force called on the legislature to expand an existing school-safety program throughout the state and to hire "prevention counselors" at middle schools. It also urged enactment of a law creating "safe-school zones" that would increase penalties for crimes committed within 1,000 feet of a school building.

A majority of members "felt the whole issue regarding guns and firearms in schools was beyond the schools and really needed more concentrated study," said John Winn, director of the state department's prevention center.

A subcommittee of the panel will study the issue further and "make broad-based recommendations, not just involving schools, to reduce the availability and use of guns among the young," he said.

New York City schools cannot be held liable for injuries sustained by teachers assaulted on school grounds, the state's highest court has found in two separate cases.

The Court of Appeals ruled last month that school districts should not be held to the same standards of negligence applied to landlords and other owners of private property. The cases involved assaults on two teachers in 1981 and 1983.

The city's school board has taken several steps this year to improve security at certain high schools, following a rash of assaults on teachers.

Buy Low, Sell High

Thanks to a national stock-market game, Wall Street's bulls and bears have become daily classroom companions for several hundred thousand students this year.

Sponsored by the Securities Industry Association, the program involves elementary and secondary students in a hypothetical world of buying and selling stocks.

In the process, backers say, students get a better understanding of the stock market and the factors that affect it, the costs and benefits involved in economic decisionmaking, and other economic and mathematical concepts.

In participating classes, students break up into teams of three to five players. Beginning with an imaginary \$100,000 each, teams make their stock selections and send them to a regional computer center, which issues weekly statements on their portfolios, including current holdings, brokerage fees, and margin interest.

At the end of the 10-week competition, the team that has achieved the greatest increase in the market value of its holdings is the winner.

"We try to make the game as realistic as possible," said Dennis O'Toole of the Virginia Council on Economic Education at Virginia Commonwealth University, one of the regional coordinating centers for the program. In fact, he said, the game is so close to the real thing that



Peter Steiner

students almost come to believe they own the stocks.

Usually students "will want to invest in volatile stocks," said Margaret Kerr, a mathematics teacher in Newport News, Va., who recently led her 5th-grade students through the game. Such "high fliers" can result in far more dramatic gains or losses during the competition than do the more stable blue-chip stocks.

Along with the sense of ownership, though, students can also fall victim to the financial anxieties that accompany sudden changes in the market, Mr. O'Toole noted. Many begin following dispatches from the citadels of finance with an intensity rivaling that of the most sophisticated arbitrageur or junk-bond specialist.

—J.W.

DISTRICTS

Los Angeles Parents Boycott Violence-Plagued High School

Parents of approximately 65 students plan to keep their children out of Jordan High School in Los Angeles until safety conditions improve, according to a group representing the parents.

The American Association of Women says that violence and weapons are common at the school, which is located in the crime-ridden Watts neighborhood.

Leslie C. Dutton, the group's president, said that many parents have been keeping their children out of school since January.

In Poll, Slim Majority of Board Chiefs Oppose Choice; 62% for Decentralizing

By Lisa Jennings

A majority of local school-board presidents oppose parental-choice measures, support greater on-site autonomy for schools, and feel the field's biggest problem is "lack of financial support," according to a new national survey.

The survey was conducted by the National Center for Educational Information, a private research firm. Its officials last week said the study offers the first national profile of school-board leaders' views on reform.

The report, written by the firm's director, Emily Feistritzer, also provides comparisons of the board officials' responses with those from similar surveys of other school leaders and the general public.

One goal of the survey project, Ms. Feistritzer said, was to give school-board presidents the chance to voice their opinions, so that "they might be held accountable for what they think will make a difference in school reform today."

"I think it's time we held these people's feet to the fire," she said last week.

'Choice' Opposed

The survey, which was funded by a \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Education Department, was based on recent responses from 1,217 school-board presidents or chairmen, who were asked to complete a 52-page questionnaire.

The school-board leaders are far less enthusiastic about parental choice than is the general public, the survey found. The N.C.E.I. used responses from the 1987 Gallup poll on education and its own previous surveys of other school officials as points of comparison on the choice issue.

In the Gallup poll, 71 percent of adults—and 76 percent of parents of public-school children—had said parents should have the right to choose schools.

But only 36 percent of the school-

Leaders say lack of money is the biggest problem facing schools today.

board presidents said they supported parental choice, and 51 percent said they opposed it. The remaining 13 percent did not have an opinion.

In a 1987 survey of superintendents and principals, the N.C.E.I. had found greater opposition to choice, with 68 percent of superintendents and 60 percent of principals opposed.

Only one group of presidents in the survey sample—those in cities with populations of 500,000 or more—appeared to favor choice. Of that group—which represented 21 of the respondents in the survey—53 percent said they supported parental choice. The samples of smaller-city, suburban, and rural board chiefs found half to two-thirds of each group opposed.

The sampling techniques may not permit accurate comparisons among these groups, however, according to Ms. Feistritzer.

Those most opposed to choice in the overall sample were presidents who had served on a board for 10 years or more. Of the 316 in that category, 57 percent said they opposed parental choice.

Jeremiah Floyd, an associate director of the National School Boards Association, said it was not surprising that presidents are not inclined to favor parental choice because school boards often have to "bear the brunt" of controversies surrounding the issue.

"When parents don't get the choice they want, they go directly to the school board and raise hell," he said.

Despite the board presidents' op-

position, choice is becoming even more popular as a tool for school reform, Ms. Feistritzer said.

Boards' Authority Decreased?

She cited that phenomenon as a dramatic example of a key conclusion of her study: that presidents feel the authority of school boards has decreased.

Fifty-eight percent of the school-board presidents surveyed said they felt their board's authority had decreased. And, of those, 89 percent said their authority had been usurped by the state government.

The survey also showed that 40 percent of the presidents were "somewhat" or "very dissatisfied" with their relationship with state education departments. More than half of the respondents said state school officials had the most influence over local boards' decisionmaking.

Some 62 percent of the presidents said they felt the state should have less influence in improving schools. By contrast, 55 percent of the general public said in the Gallup poll that state government should have more influence.

School Autonomy Favored

School officials, board presidents, and the public, however, all favor increasing "local government influence" over schools, the various surveys indicate.

The board presidents also strongly supported allowing individual schools more autonomy, with 64 percent in favor of allowing more flexibility in decisionmaking at the school-building level.

At the same time, only 30 percent said they supported giving teachers more decisionmaking authority in running schools.

When asked to choose from a list of possible reforms those they believed would most improve the nation's educational system, presidents offered the following responses:

- 84 percent favored requiring students to perform at one grade level

Major School Groups Blast Plan For Commercial TV in Classes

Three national education groups last week expressed strong opposition to a satellite-delivered television news program aimed at high-school students.

The board of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, meeting in New Orleans, adopted a resolution opposing any commercial-advertising vehicle in the classroom "resulting in the forced attention of students or replacing instructional time."

The resolution condemned the proposed venture as educational "junk food," a sentiment that was enlarged upon later in the week by statements from the National PTA and the American Association of School Administrators.

This week, Whittle Communications of Knoxville, Tenn., was to begin a pilot test of "Channel One," a daily 12-minute newscast beamed via satellite to receivers and television sets in six test schools.

In exchange for receiving a satellite receiver, videocassette recorder, and television monitors from Whittle, the participating schools agree to carry two minutes of advertising during the program.

But Scott D. Thomson, president of NASSP, said allowing commercials to be broadcast to a captive audience of students "violates the public trust that we have to present balanced views of issues."

"We spend a lot of time as principals making sure that special-interest groups don't come through the front door," he said. "With Channel One, they are going to bring a special interest in through the back door."

Arnold Fege, director of government relations for the National PTA, said his group will send letters expressing its opposition to the Congress, the Federal Communications Commission, and Whittle.

The group's executive committee voted unanimously to oppose advertising in public schools, he said. "This is a special-interest commercial endeavor that privatizes schools. It is appalling."

His counterpart at the A.A.S.A., which was meeting late last week in Orlando, Fla., said that group's board had determined that the classroom airing of commercials breached "certain ethical principles in education." —M.W. & J.W.

before being allowed to go on to the next.

- 75 percent said adults who have experience in careers other than education should be recruited into teaching. But fewer than half supported recruiting managers from other careers into school administration.

- 63 percent said parents should be more involved in school operations. But 79 percent also said parents have "the right amount" of influence over curriculum now.

When asked what the biggest problem facing schools today is, the presidents said "lack of financial support." The adults in the Gallup poll had listed, by comparison, "use of drugs" and "lack of discipline."

Demographically, the profile of school-board presidents resembles

that of the board members they work with, the N.C.E.I. survey suggests. But it is less like that of superintendents across the country.

Married, White, and Male

Ninety-seven percent of the presidents surveyed were white; 71 percent were male; and the majority were in their late 40's, married, and raising children at home.

There are more female school-board presidents, however, than there are female superintendents, the survey indicates. Twenty-nine percent of the presidents polled were women; only 4 percent of superintendents nationwide are women. A 1988 N.S.A.A. survey found that 39 percent of school-board members are female.

'Heroine,' Wearing a 'Wire,' Nabs Bribing Bus Contractors

A former auditor for the Chicago school board is being hailed as a "heroine" for her role in cracking what a federal prosecutor calls "one of the largest public-corruption cases to be brought in this district."

Lois Kaltenbach, the 27-year-old former board employee, worked for two years as an undercover agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation to document an alleged bribery scheme involving bus contractors.

Praising Ms. Kaltenbach's "integrity and commitment to principle," Anton R. Valukas, the U.S. attorney for the northern district of Illinois, announced at a press conference late last month the filing of criminal charges against three individuals and two bus companies.

He said that the auditor's willingness to cooperate—"at considerable risk to her reputation and career"—had helped the F.B.I. break the case.

Ms. Kaltenbach's former boss, Donald Sparks, administrator of the board's department of management services, was among those charged with bribery and racketeering. He could face a sentence of up to 30 years in jail and fines totaling \$500,000.

Lawrence W. Rosenthal, the assistant U.S. attorney, confirmed late last week that all those so far charged in connection with the scandal had pled guilty.

Wired by the F.B.I.

Ms. Kaltenbach began working for the F.B.I. in 1985, after she was offered a bribe to overlook an inflated bill from a school-bus contractor.

She went first to her supervisors with the information, Ms. Kaltenbach said, but when no action was taken on her complaint, she turned to the F.B.I. for help.

Outfitted by the agency with a hidden microphone, she returned to work and recorded for two years transactions in which she and Mr. Sparks accepted more than \$200,000 in bribes from the bus contractors.

At the press conference, Ms. Kaltenbach told reporters she had been afraid of being discovered during her undercover work and had "worried about my physical well-being."

But she had never had a second thought about going to the authorities with her story, she said, explaining, "I was appalled that someone

would attempt to bribe me."

District's Response

Robert Saigh, a spokesman for the school district, said it had offered its "full cooperation" in the investigation after the undercover phase ended, making available records and documents to law-enforcement officials.

He also said that over the last three years, the district had undertaken an "extensive monitoring program" of its approximately 25 school-bus contractors "to ensure that the school system is receiving the services" it contracted for.

Mr. Saigh said the district was conducting an "in-house inquiry" into Ms. Kaltenbach's contention that she informed superiors of the bribery.

Six "key people she might have gone to were asked if they had been approached at all [and] said they hadn't been approached and knew nothing about the activities she reported," Mr. Saigh said. None are suspected of wrongdoing, he added.

Charges First in Larger Probe

According to Mr. Rosenthal, the bus-contracting charges were the

first criminal violations to arise out of a broader, two-year investigation by the U.S. Attorney's office of alleged corruption in the Chicago board of education.

In addition to Mr. Sparks, those charged in connection with the case include Bernard Cohen, 65, of Lincolnwood, Ill., who allegedly furnished "multiple bribes" to Mr. Sparks to obtain favorable treatment for the Student Transit Corporation, with which he was affiliated.

Mr. Cohen is also charged with racketeering and faces the same sentence and fine as Mr. Sparks. The Student Transit Corporation, which employed Mr. Sparks after he left the school board in 1987, was charged with bribery.

Julius Polan, 62, of Northbrook, Ill., the owner of the Northtown Bus Service, Ltd., allegedly paid more than \$200,000 in bribes to Mr. Sparks and Ms. Kaltenbach to obtain preference in contracting.

Mr. Valukas also indicated that the company later "submitted fraudulently inflated bills" for service.

Both Mr. Polan and Northtown have been charged with mail fraud



Lois Kaltenbach

as well as bribery. Mr. Polan could receive up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$500,000. His company also faces a possible \$500,000 fine.

Mr. Polan and the Northtown Bus Service have already agreed to pay \$1.2 million in restitution to the Chicago Board of Education, Mr. Valukas said. —P.W.